ESO 345

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIOR OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EASTERN OHIO

by

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SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIOR OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EASTERN OHIO

A general review of research relating to the sheep enterprise suggests that researchers most generally concern themselves with sheep rather than shepherds. This paper reports the result of a survey concerned with what sheep producers think about the sheep enterprise and related issues in eight counties in Eastern Ohio.

Data for this study were collected in a field interview of 179 farmers residing in eight Eastern Ohio Appalachian counties. These counties were Belmont, Guernsey, Harrison, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingham, and Washington. Organizational Directors for the Ohio Farm Bureau and County Extension Agents in each of the eight counties provided the names of forty sheep producers, twenty former producers and ten farmers who had never been in the sheep business. From this stratified list of 560, 200 were randomly chosen from the list to include in the study. Interview schedules were administered to 179 farmers. Of the 179 respondents, 113 were sheep producers. This paper reports on selected characteristics and attitudes of these 113 Eastern Ohio farmers.

Selected Characteristics

Sixty-two of the 113 sheep producers were full-time farmers. The slightly more than 43 percent part-time farmers tended to be almost 10 years younger than the full-time farmers. These data may be noted in Table 1. The average age of all sheep producers in the study was 53.2 years. The age structure of this production group was further examined revealing that families with children were five years younger on the

average than families without children. Nearly one-half of the families did not have children at home suggesting little probability of enterprise expansion in these families in the future.

TABLE 1

SELECTED AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF HEADS OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS IN EIGHT OHIO APPALACHIAN COUNTIES, 1973

Selected Characteristics	Number	Average Age of Heads of Households
All Sheep Farmers in Survey	113	53.2
Farm Families With Children	62	47.2
Farm Families Without Children	51	60.3
Full-Time Farmers	62	57.1
Part-Time Farmers	49	47.9
No Information	2	--
Younger Farmers (44 or less)	24	35.8
Older Farmers (45 or more)	89	58.1
Farmers Farming 1-99 Acres	28	54.3
Farmers Farming 100-199 Acres	28	55.9
Farmers Farming 200 or More Acres	57	51.3

One-half of the farmers farmed less than 200 acres while the other half exceeded this number. The age spread by size of farm was not large. However, these data show a tendency for larger farmers to be younger. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents were married, 10 percent single (including divorced) and two percent widowed.

Respondents were also asked to indicate if their wife worked at an off the farm job. Slightly more than 13 percent of the wives held off-farm jobs. These working wives tended to be younger and from smaller farms. As many wives of full-time farmers were employed off the farm

Table 2

Number and Percent of Different Breeds of Sheep
Reported By Sheep Farmers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties

Breed	Number	Percent
Mixed, Crossbred	58	52
Hampshire	16	14
Suffolk	5	4
Delaine	8	7
Western	5	4
Corriedale	7	6
Shropshire	3	3
Polled Dorset	1	1
No answer	10	9
TOTAL	113	100.0

as part-time farmers' wives.

Viewing the size of farm operations, full-time farmers farmed on the average 302 acres while part-time farmers farmed 77 acres less. The uses of the acres are noted in Table 3. The average acres in permanent pasture was 148 compared to 79 acres of improved pasture reported by 58 farmers of the 113 in the study.

The average number of sheep raised annually was 97 for each producer. Full-time farmers reported an average of 114 while partimers' had 73. The breeds of sheep noted by the respondents may be seen in Table 2. More than half were of mixed breeding with no specific breed dominating the area. More than half of these Appalachian sheep producers reported having a beef cattle enterprise in addition to their sheep. Thirteen percent had a dairy operation, while 12 percent reported swine.

Attitudes About the Sheep Enterprise

The 113 respondents were asked a series of questions concerning their attitudes toward different aspects of sheep production. The first question explored their general attitude toward the profitability of the sheep enterprise. The resulting responses may be seen in Table 4. Ninety percent of the sheep raisers felt it was profitable. Examining this attitude further, no statistical significant difference was found for the four variables investigated. However, there was a tendency for families with children, younger farmers, and small farm operators to express a more favorable attitude relative to the profits to be had from sheep raising.

About 6 out of 10 sheep farmers felt managing sheep was relatively easy. These supporting data may be viewed in Table 4. Additional observation of these data revealed that producers on small farms felt sheep were easier to manage than flock owners on larger farms. This perhaps has to do with size

TABLE 3

Number and Percent of Acres Reported by Selected Farmer Respondents in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties that were Cropped, In Grain, Hay, Permanent Pasture, and Improved Pasture, 1973

Acres	Cropped		Grain		Hay		Perm. Pasture		Improved Past.	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
19 or less	5	4	37	33	15	13	5	4	10	9
20 - 49	33	29	22	19	43	38	21	19	22	19
50 - 99	26	23	14	12	24	21	24	21	10	9
100 - 199	23	21	2	2	13	12	25	22	10	9
200 - 499	6	5	1	1	0	0	20	18	6	5
500 or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
No answer	20	18	37	33	18	16	14	12	55	49
TOTAL	113	100	113	100	113	100	113	100	113	100

TABLE 4

ATTITUDINAL RESPONSES OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EIGHT OHIO APPALACHIAN COUNTIES CONCERNING THE SHEEP ENTERPRISE, 1973

	TOTAL		FAMILIES WITH:				AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN YEARS				STATUS AS FARMER				SIZE OF FARM IN ACRES					
			No Children		Children		44 or Less		45 or More		Full-Time		Part-Time		1-99		100-199		200 or More	
Profitability of Sheep Enterprise	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
Profitable	102	90	44	86	58	94	24	100	78	88	56	90	44	90	27	96	26	93	49	86
Unprofitable	4	4	2	4	2	3	--	--	4	4	2	3	2	4	--	--	--	--	4	7
Don't Know	6	5	4	8	2	3	--	--	6	7	3	5	3	6	1	4	2	7	3	5
No Answer	1	1	1	2	0	0	--	--	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
TOTAL	113	100	51	100	62	100	24	100	89	100	62	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100
Ease of Management	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(11)		(12)		(13)		(14)		(15)		(16)		(17)		(18)		(19)		(20)	
Easy	66	59	35	69	31	51	12	50	54	61	39	64	26	53	21	75	19	68	26	46
Difficult	39	35	12	23	27	44	12	50	27	31	19	31	19	39	5	18	8	29	26	46
Don't Know	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
No Answer	7	6	4	8	3	5	--	--	7	8	3	5	4	8	2	7	1	3	4	8
TOTAL	112	100	51	100	61	100	24	100	88	100	61	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	56	100

X^2 for Columns 2 and 3 = 0.074, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 4 and 5 = 1.216, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 6 and 7 = 0.056, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 8, 9 and 10 = 4.156, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 12 and 13 = 4.134, d.f. = 1, $P < 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 14 and 15 = 2.203, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 16 and 17 = 0.975, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$, X^2 for Columns 18, 19 and 20 = 7.907, d.f. = 2, $P < 0.05$

of flock, and competing farm enterprises. Also, families with no children said managing the flock was easier. This perhaps could be attributed to more experience since families with no children tend to be older.

Farmers were also questioned about health problems associated with sheep production. Small farm sheep producers felt sheep had fewer health problems than larger farmers. This finding is consistent with the earlier observation that small farmers felt sheep were easy to manage. Table 5 presents data reflecting attitudes concerning health problems and fencing requirements. Most sheep farmers (85 percent) believe that a tight fence is required for sheep. Further delineation of these data found no category of sheep producers differing significantly on this attitude. However, older farmers, families without children, and full-time farmers tended to feel more strongly toward this requirement.

The problem of dogs in flocks of sheep has been obviously serious enough that payments for sheep killed by dogs are paid by County Commissioners. Two attitudinal questions were asked of the respondents concerning this problem. Six out of ten farmers felt dogs continue to be a serious problem for sheep raisers. Full-time farmers express greater concern about the problem than part-time farmers. This may be due in part to the fact that full-time farmers have larger flocks, and larger farms. This would tend to create more exposure than small flocks on smaller farms. These data are presented in Table 6.

The payment of claims by County Commissioners is felt to be adequate by 60 percent of the Eastern Ohio farmers. Older farmers and those on small farms felt the claim payments were adequate while younger and large farm operators felt it was inadequate. Fifteen percent did not know if the payment was adequate while 5 percent did not respond to the question.

TABLE 5

ATTITUDINAL RESPONSES OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EIGHT OHIO APPALACHIAN COUNTIES CONCERNING THE SHEEP ENTERPRISE, 1973

	TOTAL		FAMILIES WITH:				AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN YEARS				STATUS AS FARMER				SIZE OF FARM IN ACRES					
			No Children		Children		44 or Less		45 or More		Full-Time		Part-Time		1-99		100-199		200 or More	
ealth roblems	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
any	39	35	16	31	23	38	10	42	29	33	21	34	16	33	6	21	8	29	25	45
ew	67	60	32	63	35	57	13	54	54	61	37	61	30	61	21	75	20	71	26	46
on't Know	1	1	--	--	1	2	--	--	1	1	--	--	1	2	--	--	--	--	1	2
o Answer	5	4	3	6	2	3	1	4	4	5	3	5	2	4	1	4	--	--	4	7
OTAL	112	100	51	100	61	100	24	100	88	100	61	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	56	100
ncing Required r Sheep	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(11)		(12)		(13)		(14)		(15)		(16)		(17)		(18)		(19)		(20)	
ight	96	85	46	90	50	81	19	79	77	87	54	87	40	82	24	86	23	82	49	86
lectric	11	10	3	6	8	13	4	17	7	8	3	5	8	16	3	11	5	18	3	5
on't Know	3	3	--	--	3	5	1	4	2	2	3	5	--	--	1	3	--	--	2	4
Answer	3	2	2	4	1	1	--	--	3	3	2	3	1	2	--	--	--	--	3	5
TAL	113	100	51	100	62	100	24	100	89	100	62	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100

X^2 for Columns 2 and 3 = 0.451, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 4 and 5 = 0.564, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 6 and 7 = 0.023, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 8, 9 and 10 = 6.557, d.f. = 2, $P < 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 12 and 13 = 1.694, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 14 and 15 = 1.606, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 16 and 17 = 3.613, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 18, 19, and 20 = 2.910, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$

TABLE 6

ATTITUDINAL RESPONSES OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EIGHT OHIO APPALACHIAN COUNTIES CONCERNING THE SHEEP ENTERPRISE, 1973

	TOTAL		FAMILIES WITH:				AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN YEARS				STATUS AS FARMER				SIZE OF FARM IN ACRES					
			No Children		Children		44 or Less		45 or More		Full-Time		Part-Time		1-99		100-199		200 or More	
oblems of Dogs acking Sheep	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
ious Problems	69	61	29	57	40	65	18	75	51	57	43	69	25	51	15	54	18	64	36	63
a Problem	40	35	18	35	22	35	6	25	34	38	16	26	23	47	13	46	9	32	18	32
t Know	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Answer	4	4	4	8	--	--	--	--	4	5	3	5	1	2	--	--	1	4	3	5
AL	113	100	51	100	62	100	24	100	89	100	62	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100
ment of ep Claims	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(11)		(12)		(13)		(14)		(15)		(16)		(17)		(18)		(19)		(20)	
quate	68	60	36	70	32	52	11	46	57	64	37	60	29	59	21	75	20	71	27	47
dequate	23	20	8	16	15	24	5	21	18	20	17	27	6	12	1	4	3	11	19	33
t Know	17	15	5	10	12	19	8	34	9	10	8	13	9	19	2	7	5	18	10	18
Answer	5	5	2	4	3	5	--	--	5	6	--	--	5	10	4	14	--	--	1	2
AL	113	100	51	100	62	100	24	100	89	100	62	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100

X^2 for Columns 2 and 3 = 0.091, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 4 and 5 = 1.813, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 6 and 7 = 4.942, d.f. = 1, $P < 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 8, 9 and 10 = 1.536, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 12 and 13 = 4.359, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 14 and 15 = 7.508, d.f. = 2, $P < 0.05$
X^2 for Columns 16 and 17 = 3.328, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 18, 19 and 20 = 14.510, d.f. = 5, $P < 0.05$

Almost 3 out of 4 farmers felt wool is being replaced by synthetics. These data are presented in Table 7. Although further examination of these responses did not yield a statistical significant difference, many sheep producers admitted they did not know whether this was the case or not. More respondents answered "don't know" than on any other issue raised. Older farmers were more sure that this was the situation with 75 percent agreeing.

Sheep producers were also ask their opinion concerning the adequacy of sheep markets in their area. Most agreed they were adequate (74 percent) with 19 percent feeling they were inadequate. No statistical significant differences were found in further analysis but full-time farmers tended to hold more favorable attitudes as to the adequacy of sheep markets.

Marketing Behavior and Opinions

As noted above, most sheep producers felt the markets for sheep were adequate (see Table 7). As may be noted in Table 8, 42 percent of the respondents lived less than 20 miles from the best market in the area. Two-thirds lived within 30 miles. Access to good markets in these producer's opinions is generally not a problem.

Producers were ask about selling lambs at the farm. The findings are reported in Table 9. Only 10 percent sell lambs at the farm with any regularity. Most sheep farmers do not. To further examine lamb marketing behavior, sheep raisers were ask if they ever sold their lambs in a pool? Again, data in Table 10 reflect few farmers

TABLE 7

ATTITUDINAL RESPONSES OF SHEEP PRODUCERS IN EIGHT OHIO APPALACHIAN COUNTIES CONCERNING THE SHEEP ENTERPRISE, 1973

	TOTAL		FAMILIES WITH:				AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN YEARS				STATUS AS FARMER				SIZE OF FARM IN ACRES					
Wool Being Placed by Cthetics?			No Children		Children		44 or Less		45 or More		Full-Time		Part-Time		1-99		100-199		200 or More	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)		(9)		(10)	
	79	70	37	74	42	68	13	54	66	75	43	71	35	72	20	71	19	68	40	70
	18	16	7	14	11	18	5	21	13	15	10	16	7	14	4	14	5	18	9	16
't Know	13	12	5	10	8	12	5	21	8	9	7	11	6	12	3	11	3	11	7	12
Answer	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	4	1	3	1	2
'AL	112	100	50	100	62	100	24	100	88	100	61	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100
quacy of ep Market the Area	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(11)		(12)		(13)		(14)		(15)		(16)		(17)		(18)		(19)		(20)	
quate	84	74	38	74	46	74	18	75	66	74	50	81	32	65	19	68	24	86	41	72
dequate	21	19	9	18	12	19	5	21	16	18	9	15	12	25	6	21	4	14	11	19
't Know	5	4	2	4	3	5	1	4	4	5	2	3	3	6	1	4	--	--	4	7
Answer	3	3	2	4	1	2	--	--	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	7	--	--	1	2
'AL	113	100	51	100	62	100	24	100	89	100	62	100	49	100	28	100	28	100	57	100

^{2} for Columns 2 and 3 = 0.595, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 4 and 5 = 3.883, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$
^{2} for Columns 6 and 7 = 0.094, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 8, 9 and 10 = 0.192, d.f. = 5, $P > 0.05$
^{2} for Columns 12 and 13 = 0.038, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 14 and 15 = 0.001, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$
^{2} for Columns 16 and 17 = 2.243, d.f. = 1, $P > 0.05$; X^2 for Columns 18, 19 and 20 = 0.865, d.f. = 2, $P > 0.05$

Table 8

Number and Percent of Selected Farmers and the Distance From Their Farms to the Best Livestock Market for Sheep in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties, 1973

Miles	Sheep	
	Number	Percent
0 - 9	13	11
10 - 19	35	31
20 - 29	28	25
30 - 39	10	9
40 - 49	10	9
50 or more	7	6
No answer	10	9
TOTAL	113	100

Table 9

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: Do You Ever Sell (lambs) at the Farm?, 1973

Response	Number	Percent
Often	11	10
Seldom	24	21
Never	60	53
No answer	18	16
TOTAL	113	100

Table 10

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: Do You Sell in a Lamb Pool?, 1973

Response	Number	Percent
Often	12	11
Occasionally	9	8
Never	77	68
No answer	15	13
TOTAL	113	100

use this method of disposing of their lambs. Only 21 percent responded they used this selling technique while 77 percent admitted never using this approach.

Farmers were also ask to express their opinions as to the best, second best and third best month to market lambs. It may be noted in Table 11 that April was selected by the most farmers as the best month, May the second and June the third. However, the choice was not an overwhelming one. It should also be observed that nearly 20 percent suggested they did not know while a similar number did not answer the question. Sheep farmers appear to either have differing opinions on when to market lambs or there is no best time for everyone. Farmers were also ask to note the weights they marketed lambs. Marketing weights varied considerably as may be seen in Table 12. More than half of the lambs were marketed at weights between 80 and 100 pounds.

Respondents were also queried on their wool marketing behavior and attitudes. Data in Table 13 reveals nearly half of the farmers sold their wool to a local dealer. More than one fourth sold to the Ohio Wool Growers. Only 17 percent pooled their wool on a regular basis for disposal as may be seen in Table 14. However, 54 percent never pool their wool. Table 15 contains the sheepmen's response to when they marketed their wool in 1971 and 1972. May was the month most often mentioned for both years.

Sheep Production Attitudes and Behavior

Sheep producers were asked to recall their lambing percentage for last year (1972) and their long time average. Their responses are shown in Table 16. Last year's lambing percentage was very similar to the long time average. Only 10 percent suggested a long time average of 150 percent or more. As may be noted, 1 out of every 3 producers did not answer the question.

Table 11

Best Three Months For Marketing Lambs for Slaughter
As Reported By Selected Sheep Producers in Eight
Ohio Appalachian Counties, 1973

Month	First Month		Second Month		Third Month	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
January	5	4	1	1	6	5
February	12	10	7	6	1	1
March	14	12	13	12	7	6
April	21	19	14	12	12	11
May	7	6	19	17	9	8
June	8	7	7	6	17	15
July	4	4	3	3	6	5
August	2	2	2	2	3	3
September	3	3	2	2	2	2
October	0	0	3	3	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	1	1
December	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	20	18	20	17	21	18
No answer	17	15	22	19	28	25
TOTAL	113	100	113	100	113	100

TABLE 12

The Weight Lambs Are Marketed by Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties, 1973

Weight in Pounds	Number	Percent
Under 80	8	7
80 and above	3	3
80 - 100	62	54
Up to 100	3	3
Over 100	18	16
All weights	2	2
No answer	17	15
TOTAL	113	100

Table 13

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: Where Do You Market Wool?, 1973

Wool Buyer	Number	Percent
Local Dealer	52	46
Ohio Wool Growers (only)	30	27
Sheep Shearer	6	5
Other or Combination of above	15	13
No answer	10	9
TOTAL	113	110

Table 14

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: Do You Pool Your Wool?, 1973

Response	Number	Percent
Always	19	17
Sometimes	26	23
Never	54	48
No answer	14	12
TOTAL	113	100

Table 15

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: When Did You Market Wool in 1971 and 1972?, 1973

Month	1971		1972	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
January	2	2	1	1
February	2	2	2	2
March	6	5	5	4
April	15	13	17	15
May	29	26	30	27
June	16	14	11	9
July	5	4	11	9
August	1	1	4	4
September	2	2	1	1
October	0	0	2	2
November	0	0	1	1
December	1	1	2	2
No answer	34	30	26	23
TOTAL	113	100	113	100

Table 16

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: What is Your Lambing Percentage? This Year and Long Time Average, 1973

Lambing Percentage	This Year		Long Time Average	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
50 - 99	14	12	13	11
100 - 124	28	25	27	24
125 - 149	22	19	23	20
150 - 199	13	12	11	10
200 or more	1	1	0	0
No answer	35	31	39	35
TOTAL	113	100	113	100

The profitable production of lamb and wool depends to a considerable extent upon the availability of quality rams and ewes. The sheepmen were asked about the availability of good rams. Their responses may be viewed in Table 17. About half thought good bucks are readily available while 1 out of 3 felt they were not. To pursue the breeding stock issue further, producers were queried about how they acquired their replacement ewes. A majority of them raised their own as can be seen in Table 18. One out of five purchased their replacements while the remainder did both.

An increasing popular means of acquiring ewes is to purchase western ewes. Two questions were raised on this issue: Have you ever bought western ewes? If no, have you ever considered buying western ewes? Response to these questions may be viewed in Table 19. About 1 sheep producer in 4 have purchased western ewes while 20 percent of those that have not, have considered doing so. Nearly half have not considered this possibility.

Summary

The purpose of this paper was to present selected characteristics, attitudes and behavior of 113 Eastern Ohio sheep producers concerning their sheep enterprise. It was beyond the intent of this paper to do a detail interpretation of the data. This opportunity is being left to the discretion of the reader.

Table 17

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: Are Good Bucks Readily Available?, 1973

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	55	48
No	36	32
Don't know	9	8
No answer	13	12
TOTAL	113	100

Table 18

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Question: How Do You Acquire Replacement Ewes?, 1973

Replacement of Ewes	Number	Percent
Raise	66	58
Purchase	22	20
Raise and Purchase	9	8
No answer	16	14
TOTAL	113	100

Table 19

Responses of Selected Sheep Producers in Eight Ohio Appalachian Counties to the Questions: Have You Ever Bought Western Ewes? If No, Have You Ever Considered Buying Western Ewes?, 1973

Response	Ever Bought?		If No--	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	29	26	23	20
No	74	65	48	43
No answer	10	9	42	37
TOTAL	113	100	113	100